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Penybont Rural District.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

WYNDHAM RANDALL,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

BRIDGEND :

R. H. DYER, PRINTER AND STATIONER, QUEEN STREET.

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1896.

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The Penybont Rural District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report for the year 1895, and to lay before you the usual tables of vital statistics.

The district comprises an area of 40,023 acres, density of population $\cdot 33$ persons per acre.

The population of the district has been estimated at 13,464, and it is on this estimate statistical returns have been constructed.

BIRTHS.

The births registered during the year were 403; of these, 195 were males, and 208 females. The Asylum 1 birth. The birth rate was 29·9 per 1,000 living, as compared with 30·3, the rate of England and Wales.

Table I. shows the population, the births, deaths, and excess of births over deaths annually.

TABLE I.

| Year. | Population | Births. | Deaths. | Excess of Deaths. | Excess of Births. |
|-------|------------|---------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1890 | 15,000 | 446 | 362 | Nil. | 84 |
| 1891 | 14,664 | 437 | 352 | " | 85 |
| 1892 | 14,664 | 467 | 362 | " | 105 |
| 1893 | 14,824 | 482 | 215 | " | 167 |
| 1894 | 13,299 | 386 | 173 | " | 213 |
| 1895 | 13,464 | 403 | 260 | " | 143 |

With regard to the above Table the population in 1890 was over-estimated, and this was rectified in 1891, the year of the

census. In 1893 Porthcawl and Newton Nottage were constituted an urban district, this alteration, in my district, accounts for the decrease of population in 1894 and 1895.

Table II. shows the comparisons of births and deaths in the district in successive years.

TABLE II.

| Year. | Births. | Birth rate per 1,000. | Deaths from all causes. | Death rate per 1,000. | Zymotic Death rate. | Deaths under 1 Year | |
|-------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | Penybont. | England and Wales. |
| 1890 | 446 | 29·7 | 362 | 24·1 | 2·0 | — | 138 |
| 1891 | 439 | 31·0 | 352 | 24·0 | 3·4 | — | 150 |
| 1892 | 467 | 31·8 | 362 | 24·7 | 2·8 | 124·2 | 149 |
| 1893 | 482 | 32·5 | 215 | 14·5 | 1·3 | 122·4 | 159 |
| 1894 | 386 | 29·0 | 173 | 13·0 | 0·8 | 126·9 | 137 |
| 1895 | 403 | 29·9 | 260 | 18·3 | 1·4 | 166·2 | 161 |
| Means | 437·1 | 30·6 | 287·3 | 19·7 | 1·9 | 134·9 | 147·6 |

DEATHS.

During the year 1895, 260 deaths were registered in the district, of these 123 were males, and 137 were females. The excess of births over deaths being 143. The death-rate was equal to 18·3 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 13·0 in 1894.

The rate in England and Wales in 1895 was 18·7.

The deaths from the chief zymotic diseases during the same period were 20, death-rate per 1,000 persons living was 1·4, as compared with 0·8 in 1894. The rate of England and Wales in 1895 was 2·14.

At the Asylum 106 deaths were registered during the year, of these 59 were males and 47 females. The excess of deaths over births being 105.

The death-rate was 62·3.

The 106 deaths at the Asylum among a population of 1,539 are not included in the total deaths on which the mortality rates are based.

THE PENYBONT DISTRICT.

Area in acres, 40,023. Density, 0·33.

1891. 1895.
Population, 14,664. 13,464 (estimated).

Birth-rate, 29·9 ; death-rate, 18·3 ; zymotic rate, 1·4 ; infant death-rate, 166 ; phthisis death-rate, 0·8 ; respiratory, 5·9.

The deaths at all ages were :—

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Under one year | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| One year and under five years | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Five years and under fifteen... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Fifteen years and under twenty-five | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Twenty-five years and under sixty-five | ... | ... | ... | 76 |
| Sixty-five years and upwards | ... | ... | ... | 63 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | 260 |
| | | | | <hr/> |

Table III. shows the chief causes of death amongst infants under one year of age.

TABLE III.

| Causes of Death. | | | | Deaths under one year. |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------|
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Tubercular Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Premature Births | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Other Congenital Defects | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Diseases of the Nervous System | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Diseases of the Respiratory System... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Local Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Violence | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Total | | | | 67 |

TABLE IV.

Shows the number of deaths registered in each Division during the year :—

| Divisions. | Zymotic Diseases. | Parasitic Diseases. | Dietetic Diseases. | Constitutional Diseases. | Developmental Diseases. | Local Diseases. | Violence. | Ill-defined, &c. | Total. | Death-rate per 1,000. |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| NORTHERN ... | 6 | 1 | ... | 10 | 6 | 33 | 1 | 1 | 58 | 17·0 |
| CENTRAL ... | 4 | ... | ... | 7 | 6 | 42 | 4 | 3 | 66 | 19·3 |
| WESTERN ... | 10 | ... | ... | 24 | 5 | 83 | 10 | 4 | 136 | 20·4 |
| Total ... | 20 | 1 | ... | 41 | 17 | 158 | 15 | 8 | 260 | 18·3 |

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The 260 deaths from all causes included :—

1 attributed to Scarlet Fever.

6 „ „ Measles.

5 „ „ Whooping Cough.

4 „ „ Diphtheria and Croup.

4 „ „ Enteric Fever.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the Penybont Rural District, Classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

| NAMES OF LOCALITIES. | MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES. | | | | | | | | MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|--|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|--------|
| | At all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5 | 5 and under 15. | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 65. | 65 and up-wards. | | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria. | Membranous Croup. | Enteric or Typhoid Fever. | Measles. | Whooping Cough. | Diarrhoea & Dysentery. | Rheumatic Fever. | Phtisis. | Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy. | Heart Disease. | Injuries. | All other Diseases. | TOTAL. |
| NORTHERN DIVISION | 58 | 20 | 9 | 6 | | 15 | 8 | Under 5 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | 8 | | | 16 | 29 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | | | 1 | | | | | | 4 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 29 |
| CENTRAL DIVISION | 66 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 19 | 21 | Under 5 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 7 | | 1 | 10 | 20 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | | 1 | | | | | | | 3 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 20 | 46 |
| WESTERN DIVISION | 136 | 35 | 16 | 5 | 4 | 42 | 34 | Under 5 | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | | | | | 12 | | 3 | 28 | 51 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | | | 2 | | | | 2 | | 5 | 33 | 8 | 7 | 28 | 85 |
| COUNTY ASYLUM ... | 106 | | | | | 5 | 16 | Under 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | | | | | | 5 | | | 17 | 8 | 5 | | 71 | 103 |
| TOTALS ... | 363 | 67 | 33 | 16 | 10 | 161 | 79 | Under 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | | | | | 27 | | 4 | 54 | 100 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | | 1 | 3 | | | 5 | 2 | 29 | 61 | 23 | 11 | 130 | 266 | |

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres, 40,023. Population (1891) 15,801.

Death Rates { General, 18·3 per 1,000 population, estimated to middle of 1895.
Infant (under one year of age), 166·2 per 1,000 Births Registered.

Table of Population, Births, and of new Cases of Infectious Sickness,

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the PENYBONT RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

| Names of Localities. | POPULATION AT ALL AGES. | | Registered Births. | NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Census, 1891. | Estimated to middle of 1895. | | Scarlatina. | | Diphtheria. | | Membranous Group. | | Enteric or Typhoid Fever. | | Erysipelas. | |
| | | | | Under 5. | 5 up-wards. | Under 5. | 5 up-wards. | Under 5. | 5 up-wards. | Under 5. | 5 up-wards. | Under 5. | 5 up-wards. |
| NORTHERN DIVISION | 3,263 | 3,408 | 97 | .. | 11 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 1 |
| CENTRAL DIVISION | 3,305 | 3,415 | 115 | .. | 16 | .. | 13 | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | 4 |
| WESTERN DIVISION | 6,396 | 6,641 | 191 | .. | 14 | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | 12 | .. | 5 |
| TOTALS .. | 12,964 | 13,464 | 403 | .. | 41 | .. | 16 | .. | 1 | .. | 19 | .. | 10 |

“Notification of Infectious Diseases” has been compulsory in the district since March, 1891.
There is no Isolation Hospital.

During the year 87 cases of Infectious Diseases were reported to me by Medical Practitioners under the provisions of the Infectious Disease Notification Act.

TABLE V.

Shows the number of cases reported under the Notification Act, and the deaths during each quarter of the year 1895 : —

| Quarters. | Diphtheria. | | Croup. | | Erysipelas. | | Scarlet Fever. | | Enteric Fever. | | Continued Fever. | | Totals. | |
|-------------|-------------|--------|---------|--------|-------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. |
| March ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | 9 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 19 |
| June ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 4 | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| September.. | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 8 | 1 | 11 | ... | ... | 2 | 20 |
| December... | 1 | 11 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | 3 | 37 |
| Year 1895.. | 1 | 16 | 3 | 1 | ... | 10 | 1 | 41 | 4 | 18 | ... | 1 | 9 | 87 |

TABLE VI.

The following table shows the distribution of Infectious Diseases and the deaths in each division :—

| Localities. | | | Diphtheria. | | Croup. Membranous. | | Erysipelas. | | Scarlet Fever. | | Enteric Fever. | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-------------|--------|--------------------|--------|-------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | | | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. | Deaths. | Cases. |
| Northern | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 3 |
| Central | ... | ... | 1 | 13 | 2 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 16 | ... | 4 |
| Western | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | 14 | 3 | 12 |
| Totals | ... | ... | 1 | 16 | 3 | 1 | ... | 10 | 1 | 41 | 4 | 19 |

SCARLET FEVER.

One death was registered from Scarlet Fever, none being registered in the previous year.

The number of cases notified were 41, as compared with 22 in 1894.

The distribution of the deaths and cases in the district as to the period of the year and as to locality will be seen in Tables V. and VI.

On an outbreak of Scarlet Fever being notified, the masters of schools in the locality were written to by me, or communicated with by the Surveyor, and directed not to admit any members of the infected households for two months.

The parents were advised as to strict isolation for two months, and as to disinfection of persons and clothing, but no effective isolation can be maintained without proper nursing or removal to hospital, consequently such sanitary precautions were comparatively useless.

DIPHTHERIA.

One death was attributed to Diphtheria, and one in 1894.

The number of cases notified was 16, as compared with 7 the previous year.

An outbreak of Diphtheria occurred at Pencoed in November.

I visited and inspected the school buildings and sanitary surroundings on 27th November. There were then four cases of Diphtheria, three of which attended at the Board School, and the other was a sister of one of the first patients attacked.

The average attendance of scholars had been 122 in the week ending 22nd November; was 83, 26th November, and 56 on the morning 27th November.

I forthwith wrote to the Managers, and advised the closure of the school for one month, and that the drainage of the privies should be reconstructed to the satisfaction of the surveyor during the period of closure. The schools were thoroughly cleansed, coloured, and ventilated previous to being re-opened.

On the 21st November 2 cases were notified—one a girl of 13 years, a pupil teacher at the school, and the other a boy, aged 13 years, a scholar. This case proved fatal.

On the 25th of November, the case of a boy of 9 years, who attended the school was notified.

On the 26th, the case of a girl, aged 18 years, a sister of the boy whose case was first notified.

On the 1st December, another case, the mother of the boy first notified, aged 46 years.

On the 5th, a female servant belonging to the same house.

On the 6th, another case was notified, a boy, aged 8 years, also at the school.

Since then another child, whose brother had suffered from "sore-throat," probably diphtheritic, was notified on the 5th January this year.

On the 7th January, a girl, who lived next door to another who had attended the school whilst suffering from "sore-throat" at the same time that the two first cases were ill. This latter is probably the initial case, but I could trace the outbreak no further; and I ascertained that she had not been away from home for several months previously, nor to her knowledge had come into contact with any one else with a "sore-throat."

The last case of the series was that of a boy, notified on the 16th January, living in the same row of cottages.

Total 10 cases, with 2 other cases of "sore-throat," probably diphtheritic.

Pencoed had been free from Diphtheria since May, and then the case was situated at a considerable distance from the school.

No further history of the importation of the disease could be traced than that given above. And I could not make certain whether the pupil-teacher or the case above-mentioned were the first sufferers.

Close to the back door of the pupil-teacher's house there was a filthy, untrapped drain. I advised that a properly trapped drain with sink should be constructed.

The drain of the school-house passed suspiciously near a well in the school-yard. I advised that this drain should be taken up and carefully re-laid in concrete, if found necessary.

The drainage of the privies was examined and found defective, the closets were insufficiently flushed, and an old drain from them had recently been taken up.

Isolation, as far as was possible under the circumstances, was carried out.

I had the advantage of the advice and co-operation of the County Medical Officer during one of my visits.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

The deaths from Croup were three, as compared with two in the previous year. One case was notified, two cases the year before.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Four deaths were registered, as compared with six in 1894.

Nineteen cases were notified, including one of continued fever, as compared with 35 the previous year.

ERYSIPELAS.

No deaths. 10 cases notified, as compared with 22 in 1894.

INFLUENZA.

Thirteen deaths were attributed to Influenza in the first few months of the year. 3 in the Central Division, 3 in the Western, and 7 at the Asylum.

The above constitutes an unusual preponderance of infectious disease in the district during one twelvemonth.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

Measles, Whooping Cough, and Mumps also were prevalent in the district.

In June I advised the closure of the school at St. Brides Major in consequence of epidemic Whooping Cough and Ringworm. 54 children out of an average attendance of 67 being affected.

Pontrhydyff School closed 15th July, in consequence of epidemic Measles. 70 out of average attendance of 110. Re-opened 19th August.

Wick School closed 28th September, on account of epidemic Measles. Attendance decreased below 50 per cent of average. A second outbreak occurred. Re-opened 18th November.

Tondu Board School and Aberkenfig Catholic School closed 4th October, Measles and Scarlet Fever being prevalent. 86 cases of Measles were under treatment. Re-opened 15th of November.

Pencoed Board School closed 27th November for one month—Diphtheria.

Wick School closed 8th December, in consequence of outbreaks of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, and the recurrence of Measles. Two cases of Scarlet Fever were in a house immediately opposite the school gate.

St. Brides Major School closed 6th November for one month, on account of Mumps. 21 children in attendance out of average of 88.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Little improvement has taken place in the general condition of the district during the year, it is still in a most insanitary state.

ABERKENFIG AND TONDU.—These two thickly-populated villages are filthy, undrained, and with defective house accommodation.

The privies are constructed with cesspools beneath the seat or immediately behind, and the liquid filth overflows after rain, sometimes into or towards neighbouring premises.

Surface slops are thrown anywhere, into ill-paved yards, gardens, or adjacent roads, so that the whole ground is saturated and polluted with excremental and other refuse materials.

Park Terrace, Tondy, is in the same state as it was in 1886, when Enteric Fever occurred here. Another case broke out recently. Again I find “on the north side huge cesspools filled with liquid filth, seldom cleaned out, and, in the gardens, pigstyes with in some cases the fall of the ground towards the houses; thus surface pollutions from them, at times of rain, is washed down in the direction of the dwellings.”

The Slaughter-houses are unsatisfactory and unregistered. They are ill-constructed, ill-placed, and badly kept. In my September Report, 1894, I advised the building of a public abattoir, to do away with the necessity for these private slaughter-houses, so ill-adapted for their purpose.

The scavenging is not so satisfactory as when the horse and cart was in daily use. The water supply is deficient in dry seasons and requires augmenting.

BRYNCETHIN AND BRYNCOCH.—Several dilapidated dwellings have been condemned in these villages. Three cottages have been pulled down and new ones erected at Bryncethin, a great improvement. Houses at Bryncoch reported in 1886 in much the same state, the Surveyor will shortly report upon them.

The water supply at Bryncoch is deficient, and at too great a distance from the houses, although a Water Company's pipes pass along the road to the New Asylum.

BRYNMENIN.—21 houses are dependent on a small spout with deficient yield, although a Company's water mains pass through the village.

COITY AND HENDRE.—Several old and dilapidated houses have been condemned at Coity. Plans for a water supply have been prepared.

EWENNY.—The water supply here is deficient, although a Company's water mains pass through one end of the village.

MERTHYR MAWR.—A fatal case of Enteric Fever occurred here. The man, who was a stranger, had drunk the water of the River Ogmore.

PENCOED.—The condition of Pencoed is unsatisfactory as regards both drainage and water supply.

Fæcal matter is stored in cess-pits, in most cases below the level of the ground, and the water supply is generally obtained from wells, dry-steined and insufficiently protected from surface pollution.

Urine and house-slops drain into the water course; this is often most offensive, and I have held it to be the means of conveying the poison of Typhoid Fever. The drains are often untrapped and defective.

I beg, again, to remind you that a scheme of drainage is of urgent necessity, that such a scheme was approved by the late Authority, and was only adjourned pending the election of your Council.

PWLLANDRAS, CAEBRYN TERRACE.—A death from Enteric Fever, 1895. A case of Diphtheria in December, 1894. Well with more than suspicion of surface pollution. A Company's water main in road.

ST. BRIDES MAJOR.—Several old cottages with defective roofs and absence of rain shutes reported in this village. Water supply from cisterns and a few pumps. Great scarcity in dry seasons, when water has to be carted for miles.

SOUTHERNDOWN.—Dependent entirely on rain water collected in cisterns. Great scarcity in dry weather, when water has to be carted for miles. Nothing farther has been attempted towards providing an adequate water supply for these two villages.

WICK.—No drainage. Objectionable privies. Farmyards, containing manure, drain into the main road. A cottage has been closed, unfit for occupation. Pig-styes too near houses and road. I fear a great deal of over-crowding exists here in consequence of the influx of navvies on the new line.

A cottage at Cornel Duw, Heol-y-Cyw, came under notice, with defective, dilapidated roof; defective, dilapidated floor; no through ventilation, and general dilapidation. Father, two sons, two daughters, and child slept in one room. I reported it unfit for occupation, and advised that a closing order should be obtained. Owners have received notice.

IMPROVEMENTS.

These are very few.

1. Three cottages closed at Bryncethin and new ones erected in their place. Nine houses in all have been closed in the District.
2. Several new privies have been constructed instead of old ones.
3. New drains have been constructed at Aberkenfig, and a new drain at the Board School, Pencoed.
4. Leave has been obtained to use a supply of water from Maindy Spring for Newcastle Higher. A yield of 80,000 gallons per day.

REQUIREMENTS.

1. Water supply for Bryncoch, Coity, St. Brides Major, Southerndown, Pencoed, Aberkenfig, Tondy, and Cefn Cribbwr.
2. Sewerage schemes for Aberkenfig, Tondy, Pencoed, and other places.
3. Provisions for isolation and disinfection.
4. The desirability of employing competent persons to carry out the disinfection of dwellings, bedding and clothing, drains and privies.
5. The alteration or reconstruction of all privies in the district not fulfilling the requirements of your Bye-laws.
6. The erection of a public abattoir for Tondy and Aberkenfig.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WYNDHAM RANDALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

BRIDGEND,

10th March, 1896.

